

The Elder Magazine

Devoted Chiefly to Coins and Coin Collecting.

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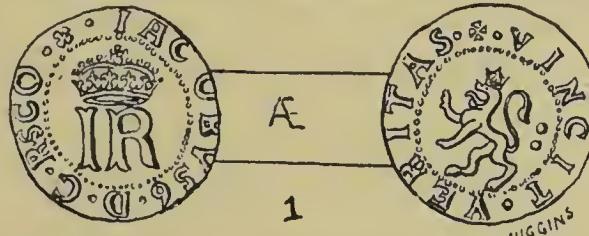
NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1910.

No. 10.

THE COPPER COINS OF SCOTLAND.

To dispel the haze that exists in many minds on the subject of the copper coinage of Scotland by presenting in clear and succinct form the leading facts regarding it, and to furnish hints whereby the coins, especially of James VI, and Charles I and II, may be readily distinguished, is the aim of the following article.

The coinage of Scotland does not go back to a very remote period, and extends only from David I (1124-1153) to Anne (1711). English coins exist of dates prior to the Christian era; but no examples of Scottish coinage, according to Mr. Cochran Patrich, can be found older than the beginning of the twelfth century, unless we admit the crude imitations of Anglo-Saxon

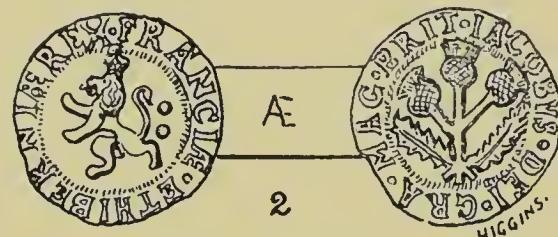


"Hardhead" of James VI (I) 1588.

types often found in the western islands, with illegible or blundered legends; but it is doubtful if these are of native manufacture. It cannot be affirmed for certain that any coins were minted in Scotland before the reign of David I. Humphreys says the earliest Scottish coins are those of Alexander I (1107-24), but according to Mr. Burns (1887), "No coinage is now assigned to Alexander I by any experienced numismatist."

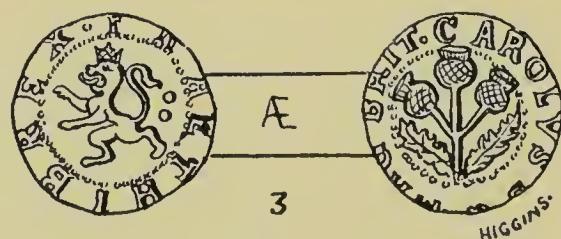
David I coined the sterling or silver penny, and silver was the only coinage until the reign of David II (1329-1371), when a gold coinage began. A billon coinage was introduced into Scot-

land in 1402, in the reign of Robert III. The word billon means base metal, either gold or silver, in the mixture of which copper predominates. In 1466, in the reign of James III, an Act of Parliament was passed providing for the coining of copper money: "His statute for the eise and sustentation of the Kingis lieges and almos deide to be done to pure folk that thare be cunyeit coppir money, four to the penny, having in prente on the ta parte the cross of St. Androu and the Crowne on tother parte with superscripione of Edinburg on the ta parte and ane R with James on the tother parte and that thai pas in payment for brede and ale and other merchandise."



"Turner" of James VI (I) 1614.

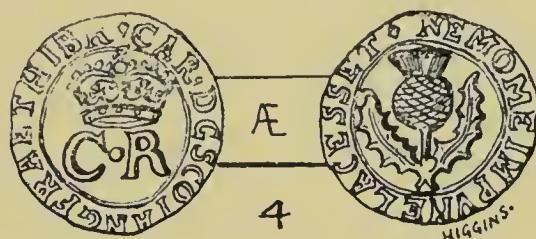
The so-called copper money issued in 1466 was more correctly billon or black money (debased silver) than copper money. Regular copper money is of older date in Scotland than in England, in France it was first coined in 1580 in the reign of Henery III, and this coinage was soon imitated in Scotland. This copper coinage of Scotland really begins in the reign of James VI. The first Scottish penny has on the obverse JACOBVS. 6. D. G.



"Turner" of Charles I, 1629.

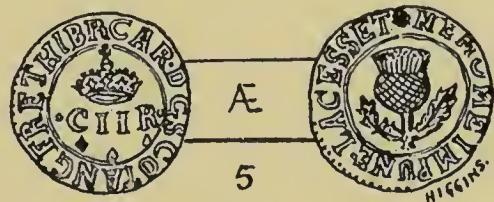
R. SCOTORYM, the King's bust bareheaded to the right; on the reverse OPPIDVM EDINBVRVI, with three thistle heads in the centre. The billon of James III of penny, halfpenny, and farthing, plack, and half plack. Permission was given to Cochrane, Earl of Mar, to coin base money, which were called "Cochrane placks", and this was a chief charge against him, and for which he was hanged over Lauder Bridge in 1482. The Placks were called in by proclamation after his death.

The thistle first appears on coins in the reign of James V:—namely, on his gold and silver coins, but the motto “Nemo me impune lacesset” does not appear till the reign of James VI (1578). The earliest Scottish coin bearing a date is the ducat or Bonnet piece (gold) of James V, with the date 1539. “Babeis” or “bawbees”, says Mr. Cochran Patrick, were first coined at the close of the reign of James V and were so called from being coined of very base metal (bas billon). Similarly the term “bas doloieris” was in use. “Bas billon”, however, seems not to have been in popular or even official use, the word “layit” or “alloy-



“Turner” of Charles I, 1632.

ed” being used instead. The old placks would have been more likely to be called “bas billon.” Another account derives their name from the Mint Master of the period, the laird of Gillebawby, Alexander Orrok. He was Mint Master at least in 1538-40. Similarly placks were called “Atkensons” from Achesoun, the master moneyer. Cardonnel and Jamieson derive the word from “bas piece,” the corrupted Scotch pronunciation of which term

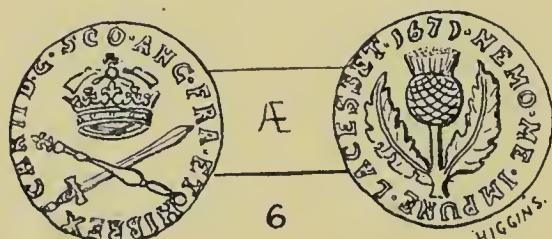


“Turner” of Charles I, 1642.

gave the popular name “bawbee.” What is certain is it cannot be derived from “baby,” as we maintain on the ground of their having first been coined when Queen Mary was a baby, because such was not the case. These were only three deniers fine, and 16 weighed an ounce. This value when issued was $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, and of the half “babie” $\frac{3}{4}$ d. These billon coins have on one

side the crowned thistle between 1 and 5, and on the other side the saltire through a crown between two fleurs-de-lis.

On 11th of January, 1553, a coinage of "babies" was ordered. "The supposed bawbee of Mary," says Mr. Cochran Patrick, "cannot be traced in any collection, was not the bawbee or babie" at all, but probably a jetton. In 1554, during the reign of Mary, the Pouiy Council authorized a new base coinage to be called lions, and now usually called hardheads, 32 to weigh an ounce. They were also called hardits or hardies, a corruption of Fr. hardie or black money, struck in Guienne and supposed to have been first struck by Philip le Hardie (1285-1314). The value of the lion or hardhead was 3d. Scots. During 1557 placks were coined of one denier fine, 16 to the ounce and having course for 4d.



"Turner" of Charles II, 1661.

An Act of 1567 provided that "babéis" (placks of James V and the Edinburgh and Stirling placks of Mary) should pass for 3d, "plakkis" within the legend, "Servio et vgv teror for 2nd hardheads for a halfpenny and "penyis" to remain unaltered. In 1574 placks of 1557 were declared by the Regent Morton to pass for 2nd, and lions or hardheads for 1d. In 1588 a billon coinage for 2nd in 1d pieces was ordered, 40 penny pieces in the ounce, "the penny have and on the one syde and Lyoun ramping with this superscription, "Vincit veritas and upoun the other syde of the penny 1 R in a sypher crowned with this circumscriptiōn—Jacobus Sextus D. G. R. Scotorum. The twopenny plakkie are now usually called hardheads. The lion on the reverse of the 2nd piece was directed to be in a shield. In the same year the Privy Council ordered the shield to be omitted "and to ad two dobbis upoun the bak syde of the lyoren" as these pieces were sometimes passed as 8d pieces. Fynes Moryson, in his Itenerary, 1598, makes the following remarks: "The Scots have of long time had small brass coynes which they say of late are taken away, viz:—babees esteemed by them of old

for led whereof two make an English penny, also placks which they esteemed for 4d, but three of them make an English penny, also hardheads esteemed by them at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, whereof eight make an English penny."

There was a new copper coinage in 1614, of 2d and 1d pieces, having on the one side three thistles on a stalk, with *Jacobus Dei Gra. Mag. Brit.*, and on the other side a lion crowned with *Francie et Hibernie Rex*, all in capitals. The 2d pieces had two points behind the lion, the penny piece one. Another copper coinage followed in 1623 of 2d and 1d pieces, but the legend on the reverse in this case was *Fran. et Hib Rex* (in capital), and the weight was less, being only 16 of the 2d pieces to the ounce.

(To be continued).

Die-Breaks.

The chapter of accidents which has prevented the earlier publication of the "October" number of the Elder Monthly has no direct interest for our subscribers but it calls forth our apologies and statement that the October issue was ready long ago but that we have reprinted it in recognition of certain happenings which will be best appreciated by the initiated.

The "November" and December issues will follow in close succession and we have adopted a system which will ensure regularity henceforth.

All recent Numismatic Association and Club happenings will be duly commented on in the next number of the "Elder Monthly".

We congratulate the Association upon its acquisition of the services of George L. Tilden, of Worcester, Mass., as General Secretary. Massachusetts has furnished some of the best human material which has ever concerned itself with numismatics in this country, and in fact the day is not far past when the Bay State were leaders in numismatic science of America.

While we are proud to acknowledge that New York holds the record these days, we are still glad to see evidences of an awakening in New England, evidenced by the possibility of co-operation among some of the strongest elements remaining in the Association.

Association matters ought to look up in the Pennsylvania and State district with the advent as District Secretary of John W. Aitken, of Carbondale. Nobody who attended the convention will readily forget the jolly and rubicund personality of Brother Aitken, whose smile of welcome is as luminous as the electric lighting of the Hippodrome. He made host of friends while here and his appointment undoubtedly means a great increase in the number of desirable members throughout his district.

The Windy City by the lake, with her biggest boulevards, biggest stock-yards, biggest auditorium, and some other big things, is becoming the numismatic center of the United States. We know that because we received a mail order sale stamp catalogue the other day, and are hearing from various sources that as many of the stamp collectors of the country also collect coins, that the numismatist ought to collect stamps. The average American coin collector, after attendance at a strenuously contested auction sale, usually has trouble enough collecting the money to pay the landlord, in addition to his bill for Brasher doubloons and 1804 dollars, so why lay the burden of "Barbados blue unperfected" and "private despatch" stamps on his already overburdened back? We are waiting for some of the Association members from Arizona or Colorado to suggest that a proper field for the numismatist is to collect Texas steers and old China. If you do, don't put them in the same cabinet.

Dr. Robinson, of Salem, Mass., the new District Secretary for New England, is one of the most scholarly and distinguished of the Bay State contingent and will certainly add dignity and prestige to the district he is to preside over.

Here's "Easy Money;" \$1,643.50 for 59c.

Thomas L. Elder, of No. 32 East Twenty-third street, placed fifty-nine American cents on his desk and sold them to a handful of men for \$1,643.50. Mr. Elder is a **numismatist**; the men were coin collectors.

Mr. Elder was selling a collection of United States cents of the 1794 coinage that belonged to E. Gilbert of this city. After that he sold a lot of half cent pieces, gold coins, Colonial, Continental and foreign coins for good sums. Some of the coins were made additionally valuable because some engraver had made an error in his work. A large quantity of "hard times" or Jackson tokens- covering the financial troubles of 1837-41 were included in the collection.—N. Y. Journal.

59 CENTS BRING \$1,643.50.

Coins of the Gilbert Collection Sold With Other Curios.

Thomas L. Elder, of 32 East Twenty-third street, placed fifty-nine American cents on his desk yesterday afternoon and sold them to a handful of men for \$1,643.50. Mr. Elder is a numismatist; the men were coin collectors. Mr. Elder was selling a collection of United States cents of the 1794 coinage that belonged to E. Gilbert of this city. After that he sold a lot of half cent pieces, gold coins, Colonial, Continental and foreign coins for good sums. Some of the coins were made additionally valuable because some engraver had made an error in his work. A large quantity of "hard times" or Jackson tokens covering the financial troubles of 1837-41 were included in the collection.

The curios that brought less money than the coins were odds and ends, such as old iron jail keys, stirrups, hem pshoes of whalers, cases of butterflies, shells and animal skulls. The whole collection of these brought only \$75.

The total sum realized at the sale was \$4,000. The sale of coins will be continued to-day. The single coin that brought the largest sum was a United States cent, Hays No. 40, of medium brown coloring, sharp impression and uncirculated. It was sold for \$101.

Mr. Elder said that E. Gilbert had one of the most remarkable collections of coins in the country.—N. Y. Sun.



NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CLUB.

The twenty-third regular monthly meeting of the New York Numismatic Club assembled on the evening of Wednesday, October 12th, at Keen's Chop House, with President Higgins in the chair, and a large attendance of the membership, in addition to which the Club welcomed the return to New York of Howland Wood of Boston, and W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal, this being their first appearance since the Convention.

Ex-President Farran Zerbe of the A. N. A., attended the meeting as the guest of the President of the Club.

In the absence of Mr. E. H. Adams, the President proposed that the list of candidates for membership in the possession of Mr. Adams, comprising some eleven names, should, in the absence of objections, be considered elected, as they had been proposed at the September meeting of the Club. This was carried and the following gentlemen declared elected members of the Club:

Dr. B. P. Wright, 112 Mechanic St., Watertown, N. Y.; H. O. Granberg, 1004 Michigan St., Oshkosh, Wis.; J. Coolidge Hills, 19 Atwood St., Hartford, Conn.; J. Everett Alden, Box 193, Torrington, Conn.; John W. Aitken, Aitken Block, Carbondale, Pa.; A. A. Hawkes, 7 Charles St., Wakefield, Mass.; G. L. Tilden, 377 Main St., Worcester, Mass.; J. Guttag, 52 Wall St., New York City; Fred Michael, 258 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.; J. A. Walker, 541 S. 49th St., Philadelphia, Pa.; H. A. Fowler, 100 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

On motion of Mr. Elliott Smith, a resolution to substitute the urn and ball method of election for the system now in vogue was laid on the table for consideration and voting at the next meeting of the Club.

On motion of Mr. A. R. Frey, of the Club Medal Committee, the Club voted the adoption of a metallic button, the design of which had been submitted by the Whitehead & Hoag Co. of Newark, N. J., and ordered the die to be made and samples with the

prices of individual buttons submitted to the next meeting of the Club.

President Higgins then took up various matters of interest which were before the club.

Referring to the club's financial condition he said it was excellent, although a large amount of expense had been incurred in entertaining the recent convention of the A. N. A. The funds provided for that occasion, however, had not been entirely expended because instead of having to entertain 150 visitors, as had been expected, there were only about 75 in attendance. This had left a balance which was now at the club's disposal.

The President continued: "Messrs. Adams and Webster having been unable to attend the meeting to-night, we shall be unable to receive reports from them. Mr. Webster had expected to make a report concerning the progress of the Heath Memorial Medal Fund. As has been already announced, a subscription of two dollars per medal was called for and members of the club who are also members of the A. N. A., have subscribed liberally for this purpose. The date regarding the collection of subscriptions for this fund is now in the hands of Mr. Webster, and at our next meeting we shall expect him to make a report.

"From what I can learn there has not been a very extensive response from members of the A. N. A. You may recall that I told Dr. Henderson, when he attended our meeting here, that unless that body could succeed in raising the requisite funds in a reasonable time we should have to undertake the work ourselves and bring it to a successful conclusion.

"Another matter I desire to bring to your attention is that of new members, some fifteen or so having applied for membership. The list is in the hands of Mr. Adams, our treasurer, who is absent. All these gentlemen, I believe, are well known to you, and will prove valuable acquisitions to the club. Among those few who by reason of their remoteness from our place of meeting, it has been deemed desirable for us to elect as honorary members is Mr. H. A. Ramsden of Yokohama, Japan, who was announced as an honorary member at the Chinese dinner. There is also Mr. Tam Wei, a learned Chinese gentleman, who met many of the members, who found him most learned and entertaining, a graduate of Cornell, who is now taking two courses, one at the University College of New York and the other at Columbia, in

various branches of high finance and economics preparatory to starting a bank in Canton with large capital provided by his family. He will be leaving for China before long and by making him an honorary member we shall enable him to spread the honor of the club among the Celestials. (On motion of Mr. Frey, Messrs. Ramsden and Tam were declared duly elected as honorary members.

President Higgins next introduced Mr. Frank Manzo, who had recently received his appointment as club steward. The President remarked: "Mr. Manzo acted as one of our stewards at the A. N. A. Convention, and is everything that we could desire in a young man. I believe that he knows how to be of more kinds of use than any young man I ever knew. He is keenly interested in numismatics, we have had a lot of valuable service from him; and therefore with your permission, gentlemen, I wish to declare Mr. Frank Manzo duly appointed as permanent steward of the N. Y. Numismatic Club. (Applause).

President Higgins then took up the subject of officers for the ensuing year. He suggested the appointment of a nominating committee to report at the next meeting in order that members might have ample opportunity to discuss the matter before the election in December.

A motion was seconded and carried that a nominating committee of three be appointed to make nominations of officers for the ensuing year.

President Higgins then said: "You must have noticed that in my appointment of committees for the past two years I have generally picked upon New York men to form our committees; but there are others who live out of town who have been just as regular in their attendance as members living in the city. For this reason I should like to ask Mr. Smith, Mr. Mitchelson, Mr. E. Smith and Mr. Wayte Raymond to act as the committee on nominations and to present nominations at the November meeting.

The President also stated that he wished to be considered out of the running for presidential honors. While he fully appreciated the unstinted co-operation he had received from members in bringing the club to its present high standard of efficiency, it was his wish to retire when his term of office expired.

"I do not wish to suggest, in any way, who my successor should be," added President Higgins, "but will leave that matter entirely to the judgment of the club. I wish to remark, however, that one of the reasons why this club has been such a thorough success is because its officers shook hands two or three years ago over an expressly determined compact that no matter who attended the meetings, they would always be found there rain or shine, on the day set for the meetings. I may add that while it might give some prestige to the club to have some Numismatic Croesus as its President, still if he is absent six months every year on his yacht or in the south of France, it would be much better to have a comparatively poor but actively working president like myself to fill this chair. For, as I have said, a great deal of the success of the club has resulted from the fact that the men who have headed it have taken an active part in its duties and have been regular attendants at the meetings. I may say, in conclusion, that while it is my desire to retire from the presidency, still it will always be my pleasure to assist the presiding officer in any way in my power whenever my services can be found useful. On the floor, I am convinced, I shall be able to do a great deal more work and perhaps better work than I could while occupying the chair.

President Higgins called attention to the fact that the term of office of all officers of the club expired at the end of November. He thought it would be better if the present officers could hold office until the end of the year, and that the new officers should be installed in the early part of January or soon after when the new president would take his seat, in order to make the occasion a sort of new year's event.

Mr. Frey: I think that had better be put as a motion, so I will move that the term of the present president be extended over 1910 and that the new president take his seat on the first of January, 1911.

The motion was duly seconded and carried.

President Higgins referred to the proposal made at the recent convention of the A. N. A. that district conventions should be held in certain localities. As an outgrowth of this suggestion, he now proposed that a numismatic and medallic Salon—the first of its kind—should be held in New York next May. Its

object would be to enable collectors of definite series to exhibit their work upon definite numismatic lines. "That is to say," the President continued, "the man who is collecting U. S. dimes and has every dime that was ever struck could put his collection on exhibition and in an address or report could give all the information he has gathered on the subject. This would supply some valuable material for the numismatic press; or the club might issue it in pamphlet form for the benefit of members."

"This exhibition would differ materially from those of the N. Y. Numismatic Society, which are largely designed to stimulate the work of the sculptor, the die cutter and the die sinker in producing beautiful medals. Our exhibition, on the other hand, would be more strictly devoted to collecting and to stimulating numismatic scholarship. That scholarship, as I view it, does not consist in the possession of coins which differ in one having a nick at the edge and another having an accidental lump on the tail of the letter A, or another in having lost some of the eagle's wings in a fight with the Chinese dragon; but in the accumulation of coins in definite historical series, and in the study and knowledge of those coins as aids to history and higher education. This establishes our work on a much higher basis than that of mere coin collectors."

President Higgins suggested that the exhibition he had outlined should be held in some public hall in New York, and that possibly some arrangement might be made to hold it in the building of the N. Y. Numismatic Society in Audubon Park.

He suggested that the exhibition should last three days and comprise three afternoon exhibitions, two evening sales and one evening banquet offered by the N. Y. Numismatic Club, to which ladies in attendance would be invited. "The morning sessions could be divided as follows: the first day, a morning reception by the club, and two morning convention sessions of the Atlantic Seaboard districts; that is to say, those districts the A. N. A. secretaryships of which are situated on the Atlantic seaboard. The idea would be to induce the secretaries of the New England district, the New York and New Jersey district, and the Pennsylvania and surrounding State district to call out their respective forces to take advantage of this occasion and to hold the proposed District convention.

“In connection with this idea, I may state that the eminent sculptor, Mons. J. E. Roine, has offered to produce, as a gift to the Club, a masterpiece in the way of a medallic plaque to be offered in duplicate copies as may be desired, as a N. Y. Numismatic Club Scholarship medal, for achievement in the intelligent and studious collection of coins, to be demonstrated at the exhibition I have proposed. The work in connection with this plaque, such as the cutting of the dies, will be done without cost to the club.

“I also suggest that in addition to this we might offer some consolation prizes in the form of Diplomas or otherwise, to those whose meritorious work entitled them to recognition but who did not succeed in carrying off the first prize. This would greatly increase the interest of the proposed exhibition.

“In this connection, I would add that I have been much impressed by the fairness and justice of the condition standard set forth in the Year Book of the A. N. A., through the labors and research of Mr. Howland Wood, and I think it ought to arouse both interest and discussion. I know from my knowledge of foreign numismatic matters and matters which have come to my attention in reading foreign publications, that there are a number of additional points which are taken cognizance of by foreigners. These will have to be added.

“I should like to see the Wood standard of coin condition become the subject of discussion by this Club, to be placed in the hands of a committee of the Club competent to edit and revise it in conjunction with such further suggestions as Mr. Wood may have to make. This would enable it to become the standard rule for the numismatists of America and it could be so published for the future ruling of all conditions in the mercantile handling of coins.

These suggestions of mine will be presented in writing at our next meeting and if you will be good enough to ratify them by your votes, we shall be able to communicate them to the numismatic press.

An additional suggestion which I have to make is, that many of us would like to assist the foundation of a Junior New York Numismatic Club, to be composed of boys and young men from the high schools, business colleges and the Y. M. C. A., the Young

Men's Hebrew Associations, and similar organizations. This would act as a feeder of continuous and intense numismatic interest for all future time. I believe there are many of our members who would lend substantial aid to such an enterprise. Some of us would also be glad to attend junior numismatic gatherings and speak to the young men on topics of interest, also to give them small collections of coins to study and discuss. We could also aid them in organizing and assist their clubs in becoming a success. Their meetings would thus become as interesting to them with respect to their ages and conditions as our meetings are to us.

This, gentlemen, concludes my address this evening and in it I have endeavored to give you the result of my reflections since our recent convention. I have also tried to tell you what, in my opinion, should be the trend of numismatic progress in the City of New York; and especially what action should be taken by the N. Y. Numismatic Club to make our future work both permanent and successful.

Many interesting exhibits of rare coins were made by Albert R. Frey and other members.

DANIEL R. KENNEDY, Secretary.

Good News for Pattern Collectors.

Word has been received here this morning (November 2nd) that the U. S. Government has not only withdrawn its suit against John W. Haseltine over the pattern coin matter, but has returned his coins to him which were seized recently by the secret service department. We predict a boom for pattern coins from now on, as the ban has been removed and nothing prevents the active collecting of them.



THE NATIONAL TOKEN CLUB.

No branch of Numismatic science is more fascinating than intelligent Token collecting. Abroad it occupies an honored place beside the collection of the most desirable coins and medals, which in by-gone days served the same purpose as the modern photograph. To-day it may be said that the "Coin" is national, the "Medal" is institutional, but the "Token" is personal and individual, embodying its issuers intimate relationship to some occupation or pursuit, which is part of his or her individual career and preserving identity more surely than monument of stone.

American collectors are perhaps best acquainted with the great English token issues of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth centuries, when dearth of small circulating medium moved thousands of merchants and traders to strike their own pence and halfpence, oftentimes beautifully designed and illustrating in every case the occupations and surroundings of the issuers so that the great and important so-called "Conder Series" of British tokens presents the most perfect collection of pictures of persons, events, edifices, familiar objects and scenes of the time of King George III, that numismatic enterprise has ever produced. There are also valued token series of most other European countries.

When these tokens were first issued, they were probably only regarded in the light of conveniences, but they soon began to be eagerly collected and made more and more attractive to please

the numismatic instinct, and, as time goes by, they gain an ever increasing degree of appreciation by connoisseurs and value in the numismatic market. Some of the rarer issues bring fabulous prices whenever offered for sale.

The celebrated "Hard times" Tokens issued during the Presidency of Andrew Jackson, and the War-time Tokens of 1861-1865, are American instances of the same spirit and all Collectors know how their prices are increasing through the eagerness of the public to secure complete series of them.

None know better than Collectors, too, how the memories of the issuers of all these famous old time tokens continue to live on the pages of eagerly scanned catalogues and Numismatic works and how it is the delight of local historical societies and collectors' clubs to bring to light interesting details of the lives and personalities of their issuers and publish them side by side with the enduring medallic memorial.

A quarter of a century, a half a century, one hundred years hence will put every one of us in the same class and no appeal need be made to the generally keen antiquarian sense of the average collector to convince of the desirability of leaving for those who will prize and find intellectual profit through our hoarded treasures, in future ages some, lasting hand-shake of fellowship across the chasm of time such as the issue of a choice personal Token alone can convey.

To this end the National Medal Company of New York City will commence, early in January, 1911, to issue a series of choice individual Tokens for Collectors only. Specially selected by eminent Numismatists, as to subject, charmingly designed and executed, made unique in character by the insertion of the individual subscribers own name and limited in circulation to a restricted and consecutively numbered issue of each variety.

In short, subscription to the National Token Club will mean that the collector will at most moderate cost be placed in the possession of rarities for which he should at once realize a numismatic premium, but for which he would not probably during his lifetime accept any consideration and which would likely remain a valued heirloom in his family.

The insertion of the individual purchaser's name is part of the manufacture of the Token and is accomplished in **incused** lettering before the piece is finished, so that there is none of the

botching produced on a coin or medal by the subsequent use of an engraving tool. The whole work is carried on at the time and place of minting.

The first Token selected for issue through the National Token Club subscription list will have for its subject—"The First American Coin Collector". The obverse will present the scene in which child-like natives of the Caribbean coast curiously examine a "Piece of Eight", handed them from his open booty chest by a typical buccaneer of the Spanish Main, whose rakish Caravel is seen in the offing. Above is a reproduction in miniature of the actual coin and around all the legend—THE FIRST AMERICAN COIN COLLECTOR—SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

The Reverse will present a tablet guarded by the Eagle, which has become identified with American Numismatics, with a small shield of the National arms and four lines of the exquisite poetical tribute by former President A. G. Heaton of the American Numismatic Association to its founder, Dr. George F. Heath:

"Yet still there is a keen pursuit,
Of higher thought and richer fruit,
The study of the coins that show,
How nations multiply and grow."

With—"THE PRIVATE TOKEN OF", the subscribers name and the date "1911."

The "NATIONAL" Token will be one inch and a half in diameter and about the thickness of the silver dollar of same size. It will be struck in so-called "Government Bronze". The issue will be strictly limited to the number of Subscribers, with the right reserved to strike not more than one copy in gold and twenty-five in silver for Museum purposes. Subscribers will receive Tokens in the order received, the filled in Subscription blanks being numbered and the Tokens coined in sequence to correspond.

A record will be kept and eventually printed of the names, numbers and addresses of all Subscribers. Subsequent Tokens will be equally interesting and be designed to form a splendid historical series of enduring fame.



The Kwan Kung Medal by F. C. Higgins.

A MEDAL FOR PATRIOTIC CHINAMEN IN AMERICA.

A Chinese Patriot of 1700 Years Ago, Honored.

It is certainly an advantage possessed by the Chinese, that most of their duties under the ancient pantheistic system of the "flowery land" were at one time or another beings of living flesh and blood, who were elevated to Celestial rank because of their great virtues or on account of signal services rendered to the great Empire of China. Therefore, even the Chinaman who adopts western ideas is not compelled to cast off his sentimental allegiance to the ancient heroes of his race.

Kwan Kung (Duke Kwang) who occupies in the Chinese pantheon, the honorable post of "God of War," is called by Chinese, who have learned enough American history to be able to make comparisons, the George Washington of China.

He is said to have been born about A. D. 180 and died in battle, A. D. 220.

What is known of his career presents points of analogy to Cincinnatus, Washington, Bismarek and Garibaldi.

He may be called the founder of united China, for when he

first left his occupation as an humble seller of bean-curd (a delicacy still current wherever Chinamen congregate) to fight for his sovereign King Liu Pe, China was divided into three separate Kingdoms, each of which was easily preyed upon by united enemies.

Kwan Kung did not live to see all China united under one Emperor, as he hoped, but died in a sanguinary battle with the Tartars, covered with wounds, in the year given, although another account of his death holds that he was betrayed to the enemy and decapitated. Theologically, he is now "the most celebrated character in the Book of appointing gods". He was as magnanimous as he was brave, for history records that he immediately raised his fallen foes, still wiltering in their blood, to the rank of gods. In the twelfth century Kwan Kung, who, like Joan of Arc, had been almost forgotten, was raised successively to the ranks of "Baron", "Duke" and finally "God of War", following upon which he rapidly became the most popular "Joss" of the whole Chinese Empire. In 1856 during the Tai-Ping Rebellion, Kwan Kung is said to have appeared high in the air like Castor and Pollux before the Romans and turned the tide of battle in favor of the Imperialists, for which the Emperor H'sien Feng raised him to the rank of Confucius. In China he possesses nearly two thousand state temples, at which the Mandarins worship twice a month besides the thousands of smaller temples where sheep and oxen are offered to him in sacrifice. In every camp, in every tent, in every officer's room, there hangs a large portrait of the Chinese Mars. His worship is not confined to the Army, for many trades and professions have adopted him as patron saint and few pictures are so familiar in the homes of the Chinese as that of the god of war. The executioners knife is kept within the sacred precincts of his temple and when the Mandarin who superintends the decapitation returns from the execution ground, he stops here to worship, for fear some ghost of the criminal may follow him. He knows the spirit would not dare venture into Kwan Kung's presence and so he adopts this means of getting rid of his invisible attendant.

Kwan Kung was particularly revered by the first Chinese pioneers who braved the terrors of the great sea for the sake of seeking fortunes in "Kin-Shan", the golden mountains, as they term California and occupies in the Chinese colonies of the Unit-

ed States the same relative position as at home.

As before stated, modern ideas have abated none of the national reverence for Kwan Kung, but even by Christian Chinese he is proudly referred to as the Celestial "George Washington". At the Chinese New Year feast, which takes place during the end of January and beginning of February, the huge picture of Kwan Kung is set up on the wall facing the entrance to the principal room of dwelling, store or shop, with a red draped altar before it, supplied with a decoration of gold, silver and colored paper flowers, sandal-wood incense burners and a liberal spread of cakes and sweetmeats. It is etiquette for all the friends of the house to make their obeisance, light a few joss sticks, nibble at the refreshments and lay their long red paper "visiting cards" on a tray there provided. Visitors to the Joss houses are always shown the picture of Kwan Kung as an object of particular reverence. On this beautiful Oriental medal, the design of Frank C. Higgins, F. R. N. S., President of the New York Numismatic Club, Kwan Kung is represented as in his temples, enthroned upon a tiger skin and attended by the two Kings he served so well. He is also frequently shown attended as on the picture here given, from the Temple of War at Pekin, by the lesser Gods of the Sword and Bow.

On the reverse side of the medal is shown the national Sun pursuing Dragon, the "Swastika" or symbol of Infinity and the three ancient classical characters "**Fou**", "**Cheou**" and "**Hsi**", respectively meaning "Good Fortune", "Long Life" and "Happiness", the whole world's most cordial expressions of friendship and good will.

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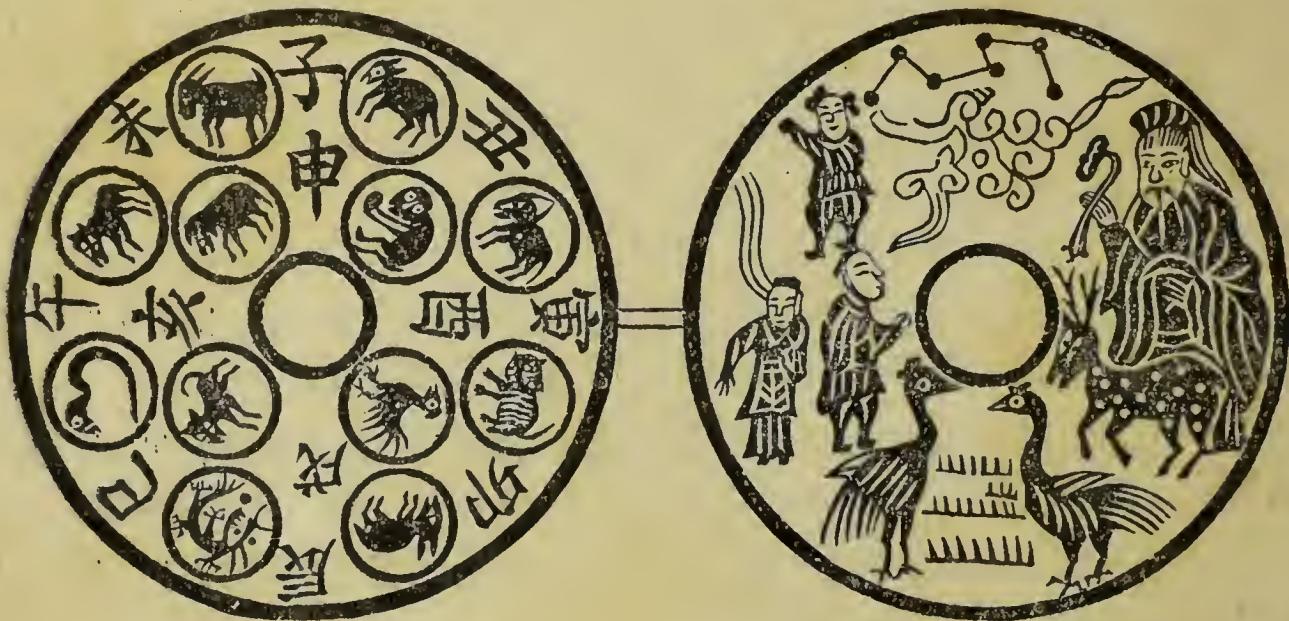
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